to reach there. People have been agitating since 1988 for construction of an underbridge at Gaushala railway crossing but no action has yet been taken by the Government in this direction. In Tenth Lok Sabha also I raise the matter in the House.

A memorandum getting it signed by 50 thousand people of the region was submited to the them Minister of State in Railways and he had agreed for the construction of an underbridge but no action has been taken so far. I had met the Railway Minister on 3rd December, 1996 and demanded for construction of an underbridge.

I, therefore, urge upon the railway Minister to order construction of an underbridge at Gaushala railway crossing at the earliest.

(iii) Need to expedite completion of Auranga Hydro Reservoir Project in Southern Bihar.

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra) : Palmu district in South Bihar is a most backward area. It has come under the grip of terrorism due to large scale poverty, unemployment and very slow pace of progress in the area. For the development of this area, Auranga Hydro Reservoir Project situated at Pali of Palamu district was approved in June, 1993. Many blocks of Palamu district are covered by this scheme. By March 1996 the estimated expenditure on this scheme was Rs. 10.40 crore.

It is a matter of regret that in March 1996 work on this scheme was stopped suddenly. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Water Resources through this House that keeping in view the wider interest of people Auranga Reservoir Scheme may be completed immediately. On completion of this project nearly 85 thousand acres of land will be irrigated and 20 Mega Watt electricity will be generated. On completion of this project lakhs of people in Palamu, Chatra, Gaya and Aurangabad district would be benefited and the problem to terrorism could be solved.

(iv) Need for Construction of a Footpath on the Railway Bridge on the River Dilli between Borhat and Namrup in Sibsagar District, Assam

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a plea for providing footpaths to the Railway bridges on rivers which are at present being widened as a part of gauge conversion work. Loss of lives has been reported over the years while pedestrians try to walk across the river since there are no other bridges in the neighbourhood. Whenever such a footpath is demanded, the Railway authorities ask the State Government to bear the expenses. It is indeed strange to see that when the Railway authorities spend crores of rupees on gauge conversion just for the construction of a footpath, they demand financial assistance from the State Government. The footpath forms part of the Railway bridge which forms part of the gauge conversion. The cost of providing a footpath while widening the bridge is very low. If it is, however constructed when the widening work of the bridge has already been completed, the cost would treble up.

I urge upon the Government that footpaths should be constructed at the time of widening the bridge during the gauge conversion work wherever the need is genuine. In this connection, I emphasise particularly the construction of a footpath on the Railway bridge on the river Dilli between Borhat and Namrup in Sibsagar district of my Lok Sabha constituency, Jorhat, located in Assam.

(v) Need for construction of an overbridge near Shankarpur Gomti on Dawood Nagar Aurangabad National Highway.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before giving notice under rule 377, I would like to make a request. I feel that should I read this notice or not because in the last session also nothing happened by reading this notice and no reply was given to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is spoken except what is written under rule 377.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Gaya-Mughal Sarai (Eastern Railways) line passes through Patna - Dawood Nagar - Aurangabad National Highway. There is Shankarpur railway level crossing between Dawood Nagar and Aurangabad. Due to heavy traffic on Grand Cord Line, Shankarpur railway crossing remains closed most of the time. Due to closure of railway level crossing on this busy road, passengers have to face a lot of inconvenience. It also results in wastage of time.

Therefore, the Central Government is reqested to arrange for construction of an overbridge at Shankarpur railway level crossing on Dawood Nagar Aurangabad National Highway.

(vi) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Bihar for completion of Punpun-Dargha-Morhar Irrigation Project.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is a federal country and Bihar State is a part of it. Bihar State was on the third position on the Indian Map. Today it has reached the 23rd position as a result of which unemployment is increasing rapidly in Jahanabad district of Bihar. As a result of this fact extremism is on the increase there. Dalit and poor youth are joining these extremists